# EPI Update for Friday, February 8, 2013 Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE) lowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)

## Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- Outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium Linked to Hedgehogs
- The Cure for Cholera Improving Access to Safe Water and Sanitation
- 50-Year Trends in Smoking-Related Mortality in the United States
- Meeting announcements and training opportunities

## Outbreak of Salmonella Typhimurium Linked to Hedgehogs

Twenty people in eight states (no cases have been identified in lowa) have been infected with a strain of *Salmonella* Typhimurium associated with handling hedgehogs. Forty-five percent are children 10 years or younger; six people have been hospitalized and one person died. These pet hedgehogs were purchased from multiple hedgehog breeders in different states. After handling hedgehogs or any other animals, it is very important to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water. This is especially important for children.

#### The Cure for Cholera — Improving Access to Safe Water and Sanitation

Cholera occurs regularly in the developing world. In 2011, more than 500,000 cases and 7,816 related deaths were reported worldwide. However, these numbers grossly underestimate the actual global burden of cholera. The WHO estimates that 3 million to 5 million cases and 100,000 to 200,000 deaths due to cholera occur annually. The way to stop cholera is to ensure clean water and proper sewage systems. The strategy not only eliminates cholera but also dramatically reduces mortality related to diarrheal diseases of all causes.

In the U.S., there has been a modest increase in imported cases since 1991 related to travel and ongoing epidemics, particularly travelers to Haiti. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/cholera/general/">www.cdc.gov/cholera/general/</a>

### 50-Year Trends in Smoking-Related Mortality in the United States

A recent study in the NEJM found that the risk of death from cigarette smoking continues to increase among women and the increased risks are now nearly identical for men and women (when compared with persons who have never smoked). Among men, the risks associated with smoking have plateaued at the high levels seen in the 1980s, except for a continuing, unexplained increase in mortality from COPD. Smoking cessation at any age dramatically reduced death rates. For more information visit <a href="https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1211127">www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMsa1211127</a>.

# Meeting announcements and training opportunities

<u>Save the date</u>; Community Resilience from a Healthcare Coalition Perspective, April 24-25, 2013 at the Scheman Building in Ames.

Save the date: 2013 Iowa Immunization Conference- Immunize for a better life, June 12-13, at the Convention Center in Des Moines.

Brochure and registration for both conferences will be forthcoming and available at <a href="https://www.trainingresources.org">www.trainingresources.org</a>.

# Have a healthy and happy week!

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